

are there such evil ideas being put forth? It is because so many people have given up; so many people do not recognize that when we put the coalition forward, we are the majority, we do not have to be beggars.

Arnold Aronson understood that. He understood the price we have to pay in energy and time and patience to make the coalitions work. I salute Arnold Aronson, and I hope the young people will go searching; when they do their book reports and they make their various presentations during Black History Month, as well as any other time, that they single out people who have not been highlighted in the encyclopedias enough, people who have not been portrayed on the calendars, but the people who have made history what it is in terms of the positive movement forward in America, people like Arnold Aronson. I congratulate Arnold Aronson on his 86th birthday.

□ 2045

I congratulate Arnold Aronson on his 86th birthday. I thank the gentleman for being here.

Mr. CLYBURN. I thank the gentleman for his statement. Mr. Speaker, in closing this special order this evening, I thought as I listened to the remarks being made by my colleagues this evening, I thought about the last time I shared a lunch, I believe it was in Kansas City, with Arnold Aronson and the things we talked about.

I thought about many of his successors as president of the National Association of Human Rights Workers: Dick Lexum in Michigan, Leon Russell, and Albert Nelson in Florida, Mary Snead in South Carolina, Marjorie Connor in Michigan, and many, many others.

I thought about Martin Luther King, Jr.'s letter from the Birmingham city jail. A lot of us read that letter. I try to read it at least once a year. There is a place in that letter where King spoke or wrote about people like Arnold Aronson. He wrote at one place in his letter that we are going to be made to repent in this generation, not just for the vitriolic words and deeds of bad people, but for the appalling silence of good people.

I am pleased to join with my colleagues tonight thanking Arnold Aronson for being among the good people who refused to remain silent. Because he spoke up and because he stood up, many of us are here in this body this evening, and many of us are in similar bodies all across this country. I can think of no better way to help him celebrate his 86th birthday than to have participated in this special order tonight.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I want to wish Arnold Aronson many, many more birthdays.

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the work and character of Arnold Aronson. His distinguished career in civil rights spans nearly 60 years. Mr. Aronson is most noted for being one of the founders of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights in 1950 and his draft of the report "To Secure these Rights." This re-

port was later issued by President Truman's Citizens Committee on Civil Rights in 1947 and eventually became the basis for the 1957 Civil Rights Act. Mr. Aronson was also one of the ten organizers and leaders of the historic 1963 march on Washington.

Throughout his career, Aronson has worked with many organizations spanning the entire spectrum of the civil rights movement. He was program director of the National Jewish Community Relations Council and founder and president of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights Education Fund. He is also noted for his attempts to rally Jewish and black communities in the interest of racial tolerance.

I salute the dedication and contributions of Arnold Aronson to civil rights.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the subject of this special order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ROGAN). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from South Carolina?

There was no objection.

TAX AND SPEND

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. EHRLICH] for 60 minutes.

Mr. EHRLICH. Mr. Speaker, I am going to be joined by a number of our colleagues tonight on the majority side to talk about a couple of issues of great importance to the American people. The gentleman from California [Mr. COX] and I want to talk about an issue near and dear to our hearts, reform of estate taxation and the way we tax success in this country.

We are going to talk about the balanced budget, and the hope for cutting the capital gains tax rate in this country.

Mr. Speaker, what we are really talking about tonight is tax and spend: how we tax and why we spend so much in this country.

There are really two issues, when we think about it. One is how we put the brakes on government, because the nature of government is to grow always, at every level of government: local, State, and Federal. That is pretty natural when we think about it, because it is the nature of elected officials to want to please their constituents.

Unfortunately, that desire to please has given us an almost \$6 trillion budget deficit in this country, an issue we will be talking about in greater detail in the course of the evening.

How do we put the brakes on the nature of government? In Maryland, in the Maryland Legislature, the Maryland General Assembly, where I came from for 8 wonderful years, we have a constitutional requirement for a balanced budget. We are striving for that

same policy goal in this House, as Members well know.

The second part of the equation is empowering people, how we are going to empower the individual and not government. That is the logical second part of the equation.

First of all, putting the brakes to government. I am pleased to sit on the Committee on the Budget under the chairman, the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. KASICH]. I am pleased to sit with Members from both sides of the aisle who are serious about actually balancing the budget, what should be a noncontroversial goal in American political discourse, but it is. An awful lot of folks we represent do not understand why it is so controversial.

As I said earlier, Mr. Speaker, it is the natural inclination of people to please. It is the natural inclination of folks in public office to please. We are politicians. We run for elections. We want votes from folks. Usually we get those votes by promising people something. Unfortunately, on both sides of the aisle over the last 3 decades in this town, we have garnered votes by promising more government.

For whatever societal ill has come about, whatever real or perceived problem is high on the national agenda, politicians have promised more government because it is the easy thing to do. It is always easier to say yes than say no. It is always easier to create one more law, to put out one more regulation, to create one more agency, to pass one more statute, because unfortunately, an awful lot of us run for election on records, and those records are composed of what bills we have passed in the legislature.

We do not measure success by how we have downsized government, we measure success by how we have increased the scope of government in our daily lives. That is very unfortunate. I think a lot of the folks elected around here in the last couple of terms understand that is not the appropriate measure of what we should be doing in this town, because we simply cannot afford it.

There is a distinction between politics and leaders, between politicians and leaders. Politicians respond to the natural inclination for government to grow. Leaders will make the right decisions. Leaders will say no, because part of leadership is saying no, and that is where the Committee on the Budget is, particularly in the 105th Congress. That is what we are going to deliver to the American people, a real balanced budget with honest numbers.

The second part of the equation is, once we get government to stop growing, how do we empower people? People want to be empowered. As government loses power, individuals gain power. One, we empower people to put more money in their pockets so they can decide how they will spend their own hard-earned money.